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September 26, 2017

Ms. Monica McGee
Forest Service National Records Officer
United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. McGee:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) reviewed your letter dated July 30, 2017, reporting the unauthorized disposition of digital agency topographic map records, specifically 10,385 Softcopy/TIFF files from 2003 to 2007 and PDF and TIFF vintages between 2010 to 2013. These map products were maintained by the Geospatial Services Technology Center (GSTC), now known as the Geospatial Technology Application Center (GTAC).

In your letter you provide an inventory of the lost records and cited some efforts to recover GTAC's topographic maps, both the Softcopy/TIFF files from 2003 to 2007 and the PDF and TIFF vintages between 2010 to 2013. You also indicate that GTAC archival processes were changed in 2014, and these changes should protect against the possibility of further record losses.

After conversations you had with Andrea Noel, Senior Records Analyst, regarding the lost records, you identified that hardcopy records of topographic maps exist. NARA would like further investigation into the potential hardcopies to verify that these maps are not copies of the lost records.

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Therefore, an unauthorized disposition case is now open to ensure that all efforts to salvage the topographic files have been explored. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Noel, Senior Records Analyst, at 301-837-3564 or by email at andrea.noel@nara.gov.

Sincerely,



LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government